



Network Monitor Glossary

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active

The window, pane, or icon that you are currently using or that is currently selected. The next keystroke or command you choose is applied to the active window. If a window is active, its title bar changes color to differentiate it from other windows. If an icon is active, its label changes color. Windows, panes, or icons on the desktop that are not selected are inactive.

address

A unique number that identifies the network node to other nodes on the network. Also known as the net address or MAC address.

annotation

A note or comment that you add to a Help topic. You can add comments to a Help topic by using the Annotate command on the Edit menu.

API

An acronym for Application Programming Interface, a set of routines that an application program uses to request and carry out lower-level services performed by a computer's operating system.

application

A computer program used for a particular kind of work, such as word processing. This term is often used interchangeably with "program."

application window

The main window for an application, which contains the application's menu bar and work area. An application window may contain multiple file windows.

arrow keys

The arrow keys are used to navigate around your screen. Each key is named for the direction the arrow points. There is an UP ARROW, a DOWN ARROW, a LEFT ARROW, and a RIGHT ARROW key.

ASCII

An acronym for American Standard Code for Information Interchange, a coding scheme that assigns numeric values to letters, numbers, punctuation marks, and certain other characters. By standardizing the values used for these characters, ASCII enables computers and computer programs to exchange information.

attributes

Information that indicates whether a file is a read-only, hidden, or system file, and whether the file has been changed since a backup copy of it was made.

Back button

Goes back to the Help topic you have just viewed. Use this button to backtrack through the topics you have viewed so far. The Back button is in the Help button bar near the top of the Help window.

branch

A segment of the directory tree, representing a directory and any subdirectories it contains.

broadcast

A transmission sent to all stations on a network.

browse

To look through files and directories. When using some dialog boxes, you can use the Browse button to view a list of files and directories and select the file you want.

buffer

A reserved portion of memory in which data is temporarily held pending an opportunity to complete its transfer to or from a storage device or another location in memory.

capture

The process of reviewing all frames as they are received off the network, selecting particular frames to record, and storing the selected frames in a buffer.

capture filter

The mechanism that reads frames and compares the data to a defined set of criteria. Frames that meet the criteria are copied to a buffer; those that do not meet the criteria are not copied to the capture buffer.

check box

A small, square box that appears in a dialog box and that can be selected or cleared. When the check box is selected, an X appears in the box. A check box represents an option that you can turn on or off.

choose

To use the keyboard or a mouse to pick an item that begins an action in Windows. You often choose a command on a menu to perform a task, and you choose an icon to start an application.

clear

To turn off an option by removing the X from a check box. You clear a check box by clicking it, or by selecting it and then pressing the SPACEBAR.

click

To position the mouse pointer on a screen element, and then press and release the primary mouse button.

close

To remove a window or dialog box, or quit an application. You close a window by choosing the Close command from the Control menu. When you close an application window, you quit the application.

collapse

To hide additional information levels below a selected information level in a tree. See also expand.

color scheme

A combination of complementary colors for screen elements.

command

A word or phrase, usually found on a menu, that you choose in order to carry out an action. You choose a command from a menu or type a command in a list box (for example, the Capture Trigger dialog box).

command button

A button in a dialog box that carries out or cancels the selected action. Some common command buttons are OK, Cancel, and Help. Choosing a command button that contains an ellipsis (for example, Browse...) causes another dialog box to appear.

configure

To set up a computer system so that the computer and all peripheral devices can work together. This includes loading the appropriate software and establishing the necessary hardware and software connections.

Contents button

Displays the active Help file's Contents screen, where you can choose the Help topic you want. It is in the Help button bar near the top of the Help window.

current directory

The directory that you are currently working in.

CRC

An abbreviation for cyclical redundancy check, a procedure used by communications protocols in checking for data transmission errors. CRC error checking uses a complex calculation to generate a number based on the data transmitted. The sending device performs the calculation before transmission and sends its result to the receiving device. The receiving device repeats the same calculation after transmission. If both devices obtain the same result, it is assumed that the transmission was error free. The procedure is known as redundancy checking because each transmission includes not only data but additional error-checking values.

current address

A network address that is assigned to the network card by software on the computer, overriding the permanent address for most purposes.

default button

In some dialog boxes, the command button that Windows automatically selects. The default button has a bold border, indicating that it will be chosen if you press ENTER. You can override a default button by choosing another command button.

default printer

The printer that is used if you choose the Print command without first specifying which printer you want to use with an application. You can have only one default printer; it should be the printer you use most often.

data link

The physical connection through which information is transmitted from one device to another. A data link connects any two devices capable of sending and receiving information and can sometimes be considered to include not only the connecting link but any equipment that enables a device to transmit and/or receive. Devices making up a data link follow certain rules, or protocols, that govern how data can be transmitted.

desktop

The background of your screen, on which windows, icons, and dialog boxes appear.

destination address

The address of the computer to which data is sent.

destination directory

The directory to which you intend to copy or move one or more files.

dialog box

A box that appears when you choose a menu command. Dialog boxes typically present a number of options from which to choose. Sometimes selecting an option or choosing a command button in one dialog box causes another dialog box to appear.

dimmed

Unavailable, disabled, or grayed. A dimmed button or command is displayed in light gray instead of black and cannot be selected.

directory tree

A graphical display of a disk's directory structure. The directories on the disk are shown as a branching structure. The top-level directory is the root directory.

DLC

An acronym for Data Link Control, the lowest protocol level within the transmitted network frame; fields typically include the destination address, source address, and sometimes other control information.

double-click

To position the mouse pointer on a screen element, and then quickly press and release the primary button twice.

drag

To move an item on the screen by selecting the item and then pressing and holding down the mouse button while moving the mouse. For example, you can move a window to another location on the screen by dragging its title bar.

Ethernet

A widely implemented LAN from which the IEEE 802.3 standard for contention networks was developed. Ethernet uses a bus topology and relies on the form of access known as CSMA/CD to regulate traffic on the main communication line. Network nodes are connected by either thin or thick coaxial cable, or by twisted-pair wiring. Information on an Ethernet network is sent in variable-length frames containing delivery and control information plus up to 1500 bytes of data.

Ethertype

A two-byte protocol-type code in Ethernet frames used by several manufacturers but independent of the IEEE 802.3 standard.
Also called E-type.

expand

To show hidden information levels in the tree. See also collapse.

font

A graphic design applied to a collection of numbers, symbols, and characters. A font usually comes in different sizes and styles.

font set

A collection of font sizes for one font, customized for a particular display and printer. Font sets determine what text looks like on the screen and when printed.

next button (>>)

Displays the next Help topic in a series of topics. Use this button to move forward from topic to topic in the order they are organized in Help. It is in the Help button bar near the top of the Help window.

frame

Also called a packet. A package of information transmitted as a single unit over a network. Every frame follows the same basic organization and contains control information, such as synchronizing characters, station address, and an error-checking value, as well as a variable amount of data.

Frame Display filter

The feature that allows you to hide or display categories of information in the Frame Viewer window.

Frame Viewer window

The window that allows you to view detailed information for individual frames that have been saved to a (sometimes temporary) capture file. Several Frame Viewer windows can be opened at one time.

functional address

A limited broadcast destination address for IEEE 802.5 token ring networks. Individual bits in the address specify attributes that stations eligible to receive the frames must have. Similar to multicast address.

gateway

A software or hardware device used to connect networks that use different communications protocols. A gateway transfers information and converts it to a form compatible with the protocols used by the second network for transport and delivery. See also bridge, router.

group

A collection of related options in a dialog box.

Help button bar

Contains the Help buttons you can use to move to topics. It is located near the top of the Help window.

hexadecimal

The base-16 number system that consists of the digits 0 through 9 and the uppercase or lowercase letters A (equivalent to decimal 10) through F (equivalent to decimal 15). Hexadecimal, usually called hex, is commonly used in programming as a compact means of representing the binary numbers used internally by a computer. Hexadecimal is particularly useful because it fits neatly into the 8-bit bytes on which computer memory and storage are based. Because any of 16 digits can be represented in 4 bits, two hexadecimal digits (one for each 4 bits) can be represented in a single byte.

highlighting

A means of selecting characters on a screen to display them in a different color or intensity.

History button

Displays a list of Help topics you have viewed. Use this button to revisit any of the last 40 Help topics you have viewed. The most recent topic appears first. The History button is in the Help button bar near the top of the Help window.

icon

A graphical representation of an element in Windows, such as a disk drive, directory, group, application, or document. You can enlarge an application icon to a window when you want to use the application.

IEEE

An acronym for Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, an organization of engineering and electronics professionals; notable for developing the IEEE 802 standards for the physical and data-link layers of LANs following the Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) model.

IEEE 802 standards

A set of standards developed by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers to define methods of access and control on LANs. The IEEE 802 standards correspond to the physical and data-link layers of the widely accepted Open Systems Interconnection (ISO) model, but they divide the data-link layers into two sublayers.

jump

Text, graphics, or parts of graphics that provide links to other Help topics or to more information about the current topic. The pointer changes shape whenever it is over a jump. If you choose a jump that is linked to another topic, that topic will appear in the Help window. If you choose a jump that is linked to more information, the information will appear in a pop-up window on top of the main Help window.

previous button (<<)

Displays the previous Help topic in a series of topics. Use this button to move backward from topic to topic in the order they are organized in Help. It is in the Help button bar near the top of the Help window.

list box

In a dialog box, a type of box that lists available choices--for example, a list of all files in a directory. If all the choices do not fit in the list box, there is a scroll bar.

LLC

An acronym for Logical Link Control, a sublayer that covers station-to-station connections, generation of message frames, and error control.

local printer

A printer that is directly connected to one of the ports on your computer.

MAC

An acronym for Media Access Control, a sublayer that deals with network access and collision detection.

maximize

To enlarge a window to its maximum size by using the maximize button (at the right of the title bar) or the Maximize command on the Control menu.

maximize button

The small button containing an up arrow at the right of the title bar. Mouse users can click the maximize button to enlarge a window to its maximum size. Keyboard users can use the maximize command on the Control menu.

Internet

A group of interconnected networks. Also called an internetwork.

IPX

An acronym for Internet Protocol Exchange, Novell's implementation of the Xerox Internet Datagram Protocol Exchange. The IPX protocol handles sessions and broadcasts.

LAN

An acronym for local area network, a group of computers and other devices dispersed over a relatively limited area and connected by a communications link that enables any device to interact with any other on the network.

Although single LANs are geographically limited (to a department or an office building, for example), separate LANs can be connected to form larger networks. Similar LANs are linked by bridges, which act as transfer points between networks. Dissimilar LANs are linked by gateways, which both transfer data and convert it according to the protocols used by the receiving network.

memory

A temporary storage area for information and applications.

menu

A list of available commands in an application window. Menu names appear in the menu bar near the top of the window. The Control menu, represented by the Control-menu box at the left end of the title bar, is common to all Windows applications. You open a menu by selecting the menu name.

menu bar

The horizontal bar containing the names of all the application's menus. It appears below the title bar.

minimize

To reduce a window to an icon by using the minimize button (at the right of the title bar) or the Minimize command on the Control menu.

minimize button

The small button containing a down arrow at the right of the title bar. Mouse users can click the minimize button to reduce a window to an icon. Keyboard users can use the Minimize command on the Control menu.

monitoring

The process of reviewing the traffic on the network.

multicast

A destination address that designates a subset of the stations on a network or collection of networks.

NDIS

An acronym for Network Driver Interface Specification, which is a specification developed by Microsoft Corporation and 3COM Corporation for the interface of LAN device drivers.

NetBIOS

An application programming interface (API) that provides application programs with a uniform set of commands for requesting the lower-level network services required to conduct sessions between nodes on a network and to transmit information back and forth.

NetWare

The protocols and networking system designed by Novell, Inc.

network

A group of computers and associated devices that are connected by communications facilities. A network can involve permanent connections, such as cables, or temporary connections made through telephone or other communications links. A computer network exists to provide computer users with the means of communicating and transferring information electronically.

network adapter

An expansion card or other device used to connect a computer to a local area network.

network analyzer

Software, or a combination of software and hardware, used to monitor, record, analyze, and help interpret network transmissions. Also called a network protocol analyzer.

node

A computer, printer, or other network component, such as a bridge, connected to a LAN that is capable of communicating with other network devices.

open

To show the contents of a directory, document, or data file in an application window.

option button

A small, round button that appears in a dialog box. Within a group of related option buttons, you can select only one button. Also called a radio button.

pane

A distinct area of an application window that can be sized, activated, and turned on or off.

parser

A program that breaks protocol information into smaller chunks so that Network Monitor can act upon the information. Each protocol parser can parse one protocol or family of protocols, for analysis in Network Monitor. Also called a protocol parser.

path

Specifies the location of a file within the directory tree. For example, to specify the path of a file named README.WRI located in the WINDOWS directory on drive C, you would type **c:\windows\readme.wri**.

permanent address

The network address that is permanently burned in on the network card by the manufacturer.

pointer

The arrow-shaped cursor on the screen that mimics the movement of a mouse (or other pointing device) and indicates which area of the screen will be affected when you press a mouse button.

promiscuous mode

A state of a network adapter card in which it passes on to the networking software all the frames that it detects on the network, regardless of the frames' destination address.

property

An element of a protocol that describes a separate field within each frame sent using that protocol.

protocol

A set of rules or standards designed to enable computers to exchange information.

protocol level

A logical grouping of protocol properties.

real time

Of or related to a time frame imposed by external constraints. Real-time operations are either those in which the machine's activities match the human perception of time or those in which computer operations proceed at the same rate as a physical or external process.

reduce

To minimize a window to an icon by using the minimize button or the Minimize command. A minimized application continues running, and you can select the icon to make it the active application.

router

A special kind of gateway that acts as a link between LANs, enabling messages to be sent from one to another.

RPC

An acronym for Remote Procedure Call, a protocol for activating functions on a remote station and retrieving the result.

SAP

An acronym for Service Access Point, a frame identifier. See also Ethertype.

screen elements

The parts that make up a window or dialog box, such as the title bar, the minimize and maximize buttons, the window borders, and the scroll bars.

scroll

To move through text (up, down, left, or right) in order to see portions that cannot fit on the screen.

scroll arrow

An arrow on either end of a scroll bar that you use to scroll through the contents of the window or list box. Click the scroll arrow to scroll one line at a time (vertical scrollbar) or a few characters at a time (horizontal scrollbar). Or continue pressing the mouse button while pointing at the scroll arrow to scroll continuously.

scroll bar

A bar that appears at the right and/or bottom edge of a window, pane, or list box whose contents are not completely visible. Each scroll bar contains two scroll arrows and a scroll box, which enable you to scroll through the contents of the window, pane, or list box.

scroll box

In a scroll bar, a small box that shows the position of information currently visible in the window, pane, or list box relative to the contents of the entire window.

scroll buffer

The area in memory that holds information that does not fit on the screen. You can use the scroll bars to scroll through the information.

Search button

Displays the words you can use to search for related Help topics. Use this button to look for topics related to a particular word. It is located in the Help button bar near the top of the Help window.

select

To mark an item so that a subsequent action can be carried out on that item. You usually select an item by clicking it with a mouse or pressing a key. After selecting an item, you choose the action that you want to affect the item.

selection cursor

The marking device that shows where you are in a window, menu, or dialog box and what you have selected. The selection cursor can appear as a highlight or as a dotted rectangle around text.

server

A computer that manages and shares the data and equipment on a local area network.

shortcut key

A key or key combination, available for some commands, that you can press to carry out a command without first selecting a menu. Shortcut keys are listed to the right of commands on a menu.

SMB

An acronym for Server Message Block, a protocol used for communication between a node and a server.

socket

In the TCP/IP protocol, a logically addressable service identifier, for precise identification of sender or recipient.

source address

The address of the computer from which data is sent.

split bar

Separates panes in a window, or columns in a pane or list box.

status bar

A line of information usually located at the bottom of a window. In Network Monitor, the status bar shows help for menu commands and items selected.

text box

An area in a dialog box in which information can be typed. The text box may or may not contain text when it appears.

text file

A file containing only letters, numbers, and symbols. A text file contains no formatting information, except possibly for linefeeds and carriage returns. A text file is an ASCII file.

title bar

The horizontal bar at the top of a window that contains the title of the window or dialog box. On many windows, the title bar also contains the Control-menu box and the maximize and minimize buttons.

topic

Information in the Help window. A Help topic usually begins with a title and contains information about a particular task, command, or dialog box.

topology

The configuration formed by the connections between devices on a LAN.

pattern

A user-specified combination of bytes or characters at various positions in a frame that causes a user-defined action to occur. A trigger can be constructed as a logical combination of up to eight component patterns, each described by a particular sequence at specified positions.

view

As a verb, to display information on a computer screen, as in “to view a file.” As a noun, the display of data or a graphical image from a given perspective.

warning beep

The sound that your computer makes when you encounter an error or try to perform a task that Windows does not recognize.

window

A rectangular area on your screen in which you view an application or file. You can open, close, and move windows, and change the size of most windows. You can open several windows at a time, and you can often reduce a window to an icon or enlarge it to fill the entire desktop. In Network Monitor, each window has one or more panes.

XNS

An acronym for Xerox Network Systems, a family of protocols standardized by Xerox Corporation. The XNS protocol handles sessions, broadcasts, and routing.

address database

A file containing user-specified addresses on a network, including the permanent address, computername, and any comment that may have been added to identify the station to which the address applies. An address database is usually identified by the .ADR filename extension.

address file

A file of type .ADR containing addresses on a network, including the permanent address, current address, and any comment that may have been added to identify the node to which the address applies. Use the Address Database dialog box to load, save, or edit an address file.

address list

The list of computer addresses displayed in the Address Database dialog box. Changes made to this list will be lost when you exit Network Monitor, unless you first save the address database (from the Address Database dialog box).

From the address list, you can sort the address database by either the network address, computername, or comment field.

address pair

The source and destination addresses involved in a data transmission. The destination can be a single address, multicast, or broadcast. In captured data, the source address is a specific address. In filter specifications, the source address can be a specific address or it can be Any, but cannot be broadcast or multicast.

Summary pane

The pane in a Frame Viewer window that lists the frames contained in the capture file. This pane lists, for each frame: the frame number, the time the frame was captured, the source and destination addresses of the frame, the protocols that were used to send the frame, and a brief description of the frame. In addition, if a raw address also has an associated IP or IPX/XNS address, these addresses are displayed in the Src Other Addr, Dst Other Addr columns. The address type (IP or IPX/XNS) is displayed in the Summary pane's Type Other Addr column.

When a frame in the Summary pane is highlighted, the associated data in the Detail and Hex panes is also highlighted.

Detail pane

The pane in the Frame Viewer window that gives detailed information about the protocol properties in the frames included in the capture file.

You can view more or fewer fields by expanding or collapsing the listed protocols, or by adjusting the protocol levels through the Protocol Levels/Colors dialog box.

By default, this pane appears as the center pane in the window.

Hex pane

The pane in the Frame Viewer window that shows the hexadecimal bytes transmitted in frames included in the capture.

By default, this pane appears at the bottom of the window.

capture file

A file containing captured data. After a capture process is stopped, the data can be saved to a capture file. Saved capture files can be opened and viewed in Frame Viewer windows. When saved, Network Monitor capture files use the .CAP filename extension.

bridge

A device used to connect networks using the same communications protocols so that information can be passed from one network to the other.

filter

User-specified restrictions on the data captured or displayed. See also capture filter, frame display filter.

local address

The network address of the station running Network Monitor.

NIC

An acronym for network interface card. Also called a network adapter card.

station

An individual network adapter address.

password

A unique string of characters that a user types into a box as an identification code so that the user can have access to certain Microsoft Network Monitor features.

display

The process of viewing in an organized way data that has been gathered by Microsoft Network Monitor into a buffer.

captured data

Frames that meet a defined set of criteria and that have been copied to the capture buffer.

trigger

A specified set of conditions that initiate an event in a Microsoft Network Monitor capture filter. For example, you can specify that Network Monitor execute a particular command file when the capture buffer is 25% full.

decision tree

A query-like structure graphically represented in the main window of the Capture Filter and the Display Filter dialog boxes. In a decision tree, statements are linked together by colored AND, OR, and NOT tabs. Combined, these statements specify the kinds of data you want to capture or to display in the Frame Viewer window.

packet

Also called a frame. A package of information transmitted as a single unit over a network. Every frame follows the same basic organization and contains control information, such as synchronizing characters, station address, and an error-checking value, as well as a variable amount of data.

secondary mouse button

The mouse button that you use least frequently for selecting text. Network Monitor uses this button to display options in popup menus. To specify a button as your secondary mouse button, use the Mouse applet in the Control Panel.

data stream

The sum of the traffic travelling across the network at a given time.

floating menu

A menu that appears in a window and that is not attached to a menu bar.

contention

Competition among computers for the opportunity to use a communications line or network resource. Contention describes a situation in which two or more workstations attempt to transmit at the same time, thus causing a collision. Contention also describes a free-for-all method of controlling access to a communications line, in which the right to transmit is awarded to the computer that wins control of the line. In this type of contention, each computer listens to the line and waits for it to become inactive. When the line is free, any computer that wants to transmit bids for the line by sending a request-to-send message to its intended recipient. If the response is positive, the computer is free to transmit, and all other computers must wait until the line is free again before attempting any transmission of their own.

Network Monitor Agent

A component that resides on a Windows NT computer and that enables that computer to be used remotely to capture data from the network. When a Systems Management Server Network Monitor installation connects remotely to the Network Monitor Agent and initiates a capture, statistics from the capture are transferred over the network to the managing computer at intervals specified when the connection is made.

Windows NT Server Network Monitor cannot capture remotely.

topology header

The section of a frame that is added by the networking topology. For example, on an Ethernet network, 14 bytes are added to the frame at the Ethernet layer. In a TokenRing environment, the number of bytes varies.

dedicated capture mode

A Network Monitor capture option that is designed to conserve system resources and to minimize the number of frames dropped. When you use dedicated capture mode, capture statistics are not displayed or refreshed as the frames are copied to the capture buffer.

counter

A mechanism used by the Windows NT Performance Monitor to graphically log the behavior of any system resource or process over time. For example, one of the Performance Monitor counters provided by Network Monitor is called "Total Bytes." It describes the total number of bytes travelling over the network per second.

sublayer

A layer within one of the layers defined in the OSI model. A sublayer is designed to accomplish part of the overall purpose of the layer of which it's a component. For example, the Data Link Layer, which is responsible for checking the data consistency of frames and of ensuring the safe delivery of frames from one node to another, consists of the Logical Link Control (LLC) and Media Access Control (MAC) sublayers. The LLC sublayer establishes and maintains the link between two network nodes. The MAC sublayer controls access to the transmission medium and detects data collisions.

per second statistics

The statistics in the Capture window that represent the average amount of data captured by Network Monitor every second.

capture buffer

A reserved area in memory into which Network Monitor copies captured frames. The size of the capture buffer can be increased to the amount of memory available on a system. When the Systems Management Server Network Monitor remote agent is used to capture on a remote computer, the size of the capture buffer is limited to the amount of memory available on the remote computer.

Windows NT Server Network Monitor cannot capture remotely.

